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BIWEEKLY REPORT

SINO-SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN UNDERDEVELOPED AREAS

EIC WGR 1/170

13 August 1962

PREPARED BY THE WORKING GROUP
ON SINO-SOVIET BLOC ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
IN UNDERDEVELOPED AREAS

ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

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Summary of Events
27 July - 9 August 1962

Soviet aid for the development of Cuba's deep-sea fishing industry is being given under a recently negotiated technical assistance agreement. Five fishing vessels, to be used as training schools and fitted with modern industrial fishing equipment, arrived in Havana harbor in mid-July. The USSR also is helping the Cubans organize their fishing industry on a more efficient basis.

A final agreement on the type of dam and the schedule for the powerplant to be built at Aswan was concluded between Soviet and United Arab Republic officials late in June. Work on the structure of the dam is to begin before the end of 1962 and to be completed by 1968; the powerplant is to be producing at full capacity by 1970.

Iraq's celebration of the fourth anniversary of the Iraqi Revolution included ceremonies at several projects being carried out under Bloc economic aid programs. The Soviet delegation to the ceremonies reportedly was piqued at Kassem's omission of any reference to Bloc assistance to these undertakings.

About 100 Afghan military officers and cadets reportedly are to leave late in August for 2 years of training in the USSR. It is likely that the dispatch of this large contingent of trainees is an outgrowth of Soviet Marshal Sokolovskiy's recommendations for overhauling the Afghan defense forces made after an inspection trip to Afghanistan.

A Czechoslovak bid to market a twin-engine executive-type aircraft is being considered by Indian officials. This type of plane previously has been purchased from the West. Although the government formerly restricted the import of this type of aircraft, the fact that it may be bought from the Czechoslovaks for rupees should enhance its sales potential.

The longstanding Soviet offer to provide an economic adviser to the Nepalese Government has at last been accepted. The USSR will bear all the costs of his 2-year assignment as an industrial adviser to the National Planning Council.

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The Cambodian National Airline reportedly has negotiated an agreement with Communist China for the establishment of two-way air service between Phnom Penh and Canton via Vientiane and Hanoi. If implemented, this service will constitute Communist China's second commercial air venture outside the Bloc and the first regular service of a Free World carrier to Communist China.

As a result of discussions between Indian leaders and Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan during the latter's brief stopover in New Delhi in July, the USSR has undertaken a review of its aid program in India. This survey, currently being made by an official of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, appears to be largely a response to Indian complaints over the rate of delivery of Soviet equipment, particularly in the fields of power equipment and oil exploration. Of more critical significance over the long run, however, are indications that the USSR may not fulfill its total commitments for delivery of power equipment during the period of India's Third Five Year Plan. The reasons for the reported lag in Soviet deliveries and the prospective cutback in total power equipment to be supplied are not entirely clear.

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